Boosting Tobacco Exports by Stabilising Domestic Markets

6307. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has emphasised the need to have a stabilised domestic market to ensure rising exports of tobacco products; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to maximise exports of tobacco by stabilising the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Measures taken to boost export of cigarettes and other tobacco products include :—

(1) Undertaking trade promotion measures such as aggressive publicity in overseas markets, participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, trade delegation to importing countries etc.

(2) Promoting export oriented units for export of cigarettes.

(3) Permitting foreivn investment in cigarette industry mainly for export of cigarettes.

(4) Encouraging manufacturers to establish ware houses in CIS countries for stock and sale of cigarettes.

(5) Permitting cigarette manufacturers to import various items with a view to enable them to undertake product development.

Export of Indian Traditional Medicines to USA

6308. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the delegation of the Basic Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Chemexcil) held discussions with Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and National Institute of Health (NIH) during March, 1994 with an intention to market Indian Traditional Medicines in USA; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and what is the possibility of exporting these drugs to USA?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the discussions, the officials of US FDA mentioned about registration requirement for approval of herbal formulations. As per the existing US FDA rules & regulations for ayurvedic/herbal formulations for sale in that country with medicinal/therapeutic claims on the product label, compliance with US FDA regulation is very much necessary as they insist on product safety, efficacy, absence of toxilogical/narcotic substances etc. The US National Institute of Health (NIH) also voiced the same. There is good potential for exports of Indian ayurvedic Medicines/traditional medicines to USA and other Western countries provided these are reported according to US FDA specifications.

Low Production of Tea in the Cachar Area

6309. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cachar area produced only an estimated 42 million kilograms of tea in 1993 due to the perennial problem of floods in the Bank river; and